DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 073 763 JC 730 070

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TITLE	Some Observations on the Fall, 1972 Early Registration Procedure.
INSTITUTION	Los Angeles City Coll., Calif.
REPORT NO	RS-73-7
PUB DATE	Apr 73
NOTE	9p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.65 HC-$3.29
DESCRIPTORS	Community Colleges; *Enrollment Projections; Enrollment Rate; Post Secondary Education; *School Registration; *Student Enrollment; Technical Reports

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted by Los Angeles City College to determine whether the early registration of spring 1972 was primarily responsible for the inflated enrollment figures for fall 1972 classes. A tabulation by course and department was provided by the college Data Center of the number of enrollments at the close of registration, at the close of the second week, at census week, and at the end of the semester. Persistence rates for "continuing" and "new and returning" students were compared. Persistence patterns for continuing and non-continuing students differed markedly between the first day of the semester and census week. From census week to the end of the semester, persistence rates for both groups were comparable to past years. It appears that many of the students who registered early did not actually appear for classes and their names were not removed from the rolls until census week. It is recommended that either early registration be abandoned, some means of affirming the early enrollment be employed, or departments study the drop rates and oversubscribe their courses appropriately. (KM)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE FALL, 1972 EARLY REGISTRATION PROCEDURE"

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Research Study #73-7

JC 730 070

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Research Office
April, 1973

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

APR 20 1973

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INFORMATION

"SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE FALL, 1972
EARLY REGISTRATION PROCEDURE"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Los Angeles City College students enrolled during the Spring, 1972 semester were permitted to register and enroll for Fall, 1972 classes during May, instead of being required to return in August as in most recent registrations. On the first day of classes in September, a large absenteeism was reported by many instructors. A request was directed to the Research Office to see if the early registration procedure should share a major portion of the responsibility for the "inflated" enrollment figures. This study was prepared to shed some light on this question.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

In order to obtain some data which could be of value in this investigation, the Data Center was requested to furnish a tabulation by course and department of the number of enrollments at the close of registration (day 0), at the close of the second week (day 10), at census week (day 15), and at the end of the semester. Analysis of this information provided in March by the Data Center constitutes the procedure for this study.

It should be kept in mind, in reading this report, that the figures indicate numbers of students officially enrolled at the time indicated. Add and drop transactions, along with faculty exclusions, are reflected in the numbers only if the actions were completely processed by the indicated date.

Since late registration was permitted, it seemed advisable to check the persistence rates for three groups: students who registered in May, students who registered during the summer registration period, and those who registered after the first day of the semester. Data Processing was unable to furnish

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY (continued)

separate listings for the late registrants, but they were able to provide separate listings for continuing students and the total group. Since most "continuing" students registered in May, it seemed that comparison of persistence rates for "continuing" and "new and returning"students should prove helpful.

Table 1 therefore is presented to show departmental enrollments on day zero, day ten, day fifteen, and at the end of the semester (before grades), for continuing students, new and returning students, and the total. (Subtotals by specific courses are available upon request).

Table 2 presents the figures of Table 1 as percentages of the second week (day 10) figures. Second week figures were chosen as the base as it appeared they would most nearly reflect the highest enrollment figures, since a large number of enrollments occurred after the first day of classes.

Figure 1 presents in graphical form a comparison between enrollments of continuing and non-continuing students, figures in percents using 2nd week enrollments as a base. For additional comparisons, Figures 2 and 3 are also presented, using census week and first day of the semester, respectively, as bases for percent.

TABLE 1 - LACC Fall, 1972 Day Enrollments, by Department

Department	ALL STUDENTS Reg.	2 nd Week	Census	Final	CONTINUING STUDENTS Reg.	2 nd Week	Census	Final	NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS Reg.	2 nd Week	Census	Final
1. American Cultures	822	1073	1007	929	607	705	647	601	215	368	360	328
2. Architecture	321	376	376	312	208	202	176	162	113	174	200	150
3. Art	1375	1515	1251	1120	996	986	788	710	379	529	463	410
4. Broadcasting	1130	1467	1337	1207	576	634	560	501	554	833	777	706
5. Bus. Adm.	2131	2313	1991	1747	1394	1390	1165	1029	737	923	826	708
6. Chemistry	657	785	702	585	453	464	394	316	204	321	308	269
7. Computer Tech.	671	742	625	595	411	384	296	285	260	358	329	310
8. Dental	918	1222	1125	1098	541	744	706	698	377	478	419	380
9. Developmental Comm.	254	335	299	289	69	84	67	67	185	251	232	222
10. Earth Science	1638	1875	1662	1542	1268	1293	1116	1035	370	582	546	507
11. Engineering	293	370	312	297	190	213	182	175	103	157	130	122
12. English	3109	3446	2751	2580	1940	1864	1411	1289	1169	1582	1340	1291
13. Foreign Lang.	1437	1588	1299	1096	925	918	749	630	512	670	550	466
14. Health	1036	1187	1064	970	567	585	491	435	469	602	573	535
15. Home Economics	867	1126	985	936	600	661	560	530	267	465	425	406
16. Law	1245	1374	1259	1139	849	825	744	660	396	549	515	479
17. Life Science	1587	1937	1786	1520	1149	1211	1077	910	438	726	709	610
18. Mathematics	2249	2730	2412	2013	1451	1498	1296	1083	798	1232	1116	960
19. Media Arts	440	565	489	438	327	385	322	288	113	180	167	150
20. Music	2041	2378	2114	1865	1443	1405	1202	1047	598	973	912	818
21. Nursing	415	463	444	433	374	391	371	356	41	72	73	77
22. Occupational Therapy	157	176	160	147	133	141	126	115	24	35	34	32
23. Optics	111	112	104	103	66	63	61	61	45	49	43	42
24. Philosophy	653	788	767	672	472	489	482	433	181	299	285	239
25. Physical Ed.	6003	7010	6986	6457	3712	3835	3764	3461	2291	3175	3212	2996
26. Physics	498	555	476	399	374	357	298	252	124	198	178	147
27. Psychology	2818	3439	3193	2940	1861	2031	1854	1680	957	1408	1339	1260
28. Radiologic Tech.	345	462	420	409	235	296	263	256	110	166	157	153
29. Sec. Science	1661	1871	1579	1425	1086	1097	880	791	575	774	699	634
30. Social Science	4154	4694	4093	3603	2635	2700	2248	2011	1519	1994	1845	1592
31. Speech	1410	1630	1428	1288	853	839	716	643	557	791	712	645
32. Theatre Arts	1097	1343	1270	1121	635	691	645	599	462	652	625	522
33. Transportation	198	229	202	201	148	162	143	138	50	67	59	63
Total	43741	51176	43958	41456	28548	29543	25800	23227	15193	21633	20158	18299

TABLE 2 - LACC Fall 1972 Persistence Rates (in percent, 2nd week enrollment as base)

Department	CONTINUING STUDENTS: 2nd Week Enrollment	% of 2nd Week Enrollment: Reg.	Census	Final	NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS: 2nd Week Enrollment	% of 2nd Week Enrollment: Reg.	Census	Final	% Continuing
1. American Cultures	705	86.1	91.8	85.2	368	58.4	97.8	89.1	65.7
2. Architecture	202	103.0	87.1	80.2	174	64.9	94.8	86.2	53.7
3. Art	986	101.0	79.9	72.0	529	71.6	87.5	77.5	65.1
4. Broadcasting	634	90.9	88.3	79.0	833	66.5	93.3	84.8	43.2
5. Bus. Administration	1390	100.3	83.8	74.8	923	79.8	89.5	76.7	60.1
6. Chemistry	464	97.6	84.9	68.1	321	63.6	96.0	83.8	59.1
7. Computer Tech.	384	107.0	77.1	74.2	358	72.6	91.9	86.6	51.8
8. Dental	744	72.7	94.9	93.8	478	78.9	87.7	79.5	60.9
9. Develop. Comm.	64	82.1	79.8	79.8	251	69.7	92.4	88.4	25.0
10. Earth Science	1293	98.1	86.3	80.1	582	63.6	93.8	87.1	69.0
11. Engineering	213	89.2	85.4	82.2	157	65.6	82.8	77.7	57.6
12. English	1864	104.1	75.7	69.2	1582	73.9	84.7	81.6	54.1
13. Foreign Lang.	918	100.8	81.6	68.6	670	76.4	82.1	69.6	57.8
14. Health	585	96.9	83.9	74.4	602	77.9	95.2	88.9	49.3
15. Home Economics	661	90.8	84.7	80.2	465	57.4	91.4	87.3	58.7
16. Law	825	102.9	90.2	80.0	549	72.1	93.8	87.2	60.0
17. Life Science	1211	94.9	88.9	75.1	726	60.3	97.7	86.8	64.5
18. Mathematics	1498	96.9	86.5	70.3	1232	64.8	90.6	77.9	54.9
19. Media Arts	385	84.9	83.6	74.8	180	62.8	92.8	83.3	68.1
20. Music	1405	102.7	85.6	74.5	973	61.5	93.7	84.1	59.1
21. Nursing	391	95.7	94.9	91.1	72	56.9	101.4	100.9	84.4
22. Occupational Therapy	141	94.3	89.4	81.6	35	68.6	9711	91.4	80.1
23. Optics	63	104.8	96.8	96.8	49	91.8	87.8	85.7	56.2
24. Philosophy	489	96.5	98.6	88.6	299	60.5	95.3	79.9	
25. Phys. Education	3835	96.8	98.2	90.3	3175	72.2	101.2	94.4	54.7
26. Physics	357	104.8	83.5	70.6	198	62.6	89.9	74.2	64.3
27. Psychology	2031	91.6	91.3	82.7	1408	68.0	95.1	89.5	59.1
28. Radiologic Tech.	296	79.4	88.9	86.5	166	66.3	94.6	92.2	64.1
29. Secretarial Sci.	1097	99.0	80.2	72.1	774	74.3	90.3	81.9	58.6
30. Social Science	2700	97.6	83.3	74.5	1994	76.2	92.5	79.8	57.5
31. Speech	839	101.7	85.3	76.6	791	70.4	90.0	81.5	51.5
32. Theatre Arts	691	101.7	85.3	76.6	791	70.4	90.0	81.5	51.5
33. Transportation	162	91.4	88.3	85.2	67	74.6	94.0	94.0	70.7
Total	29543	96.6	84.8	76.7	21633	70.3	96.5	87.0	57.7

FIGURE 1 - LACC Fall, 1972 Persistence Rates for Day Students (2nd week enrollment as base)

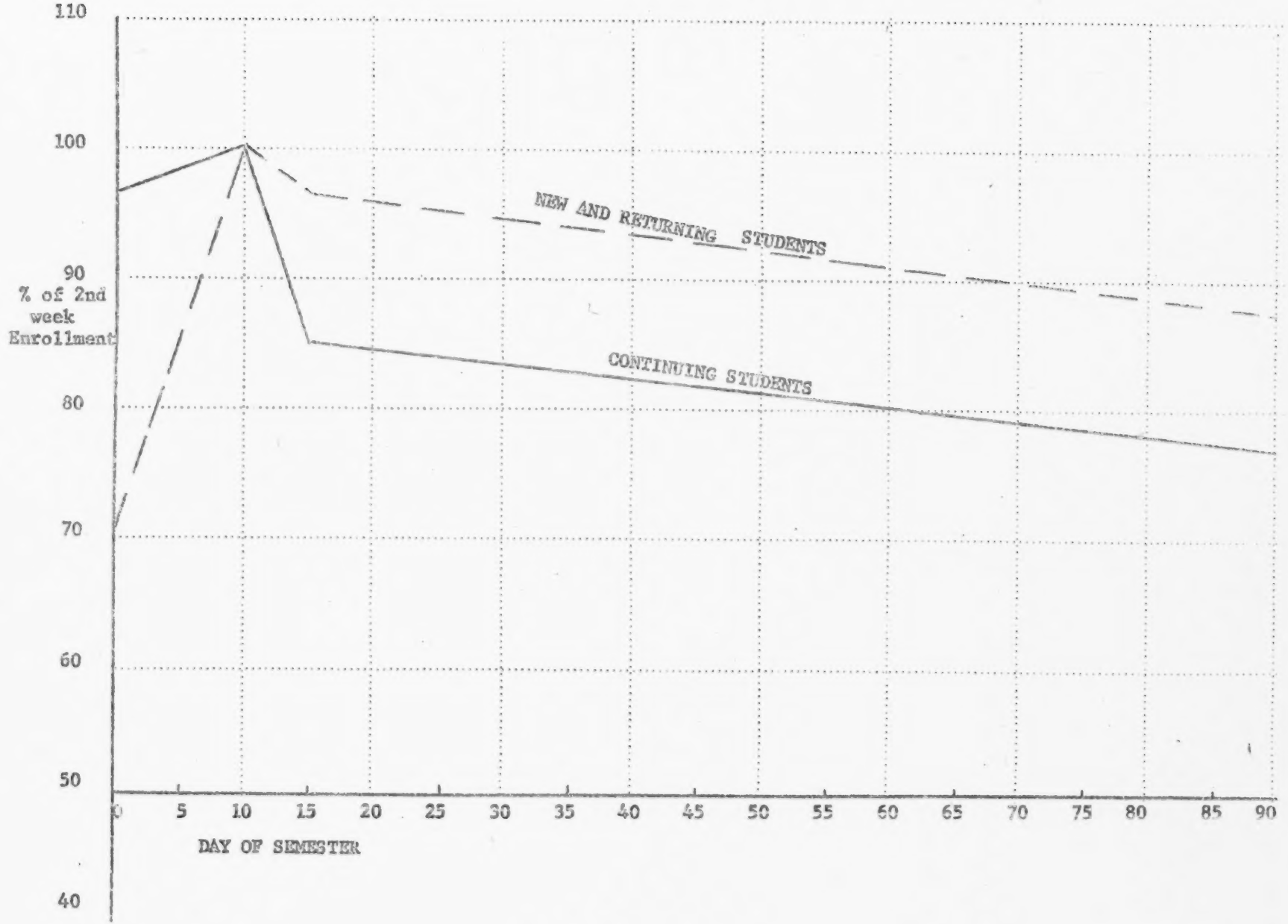


FIGURE 2 - LACC Fall, 1972 Persistence Rates for Day Students (census week enrollment as base)

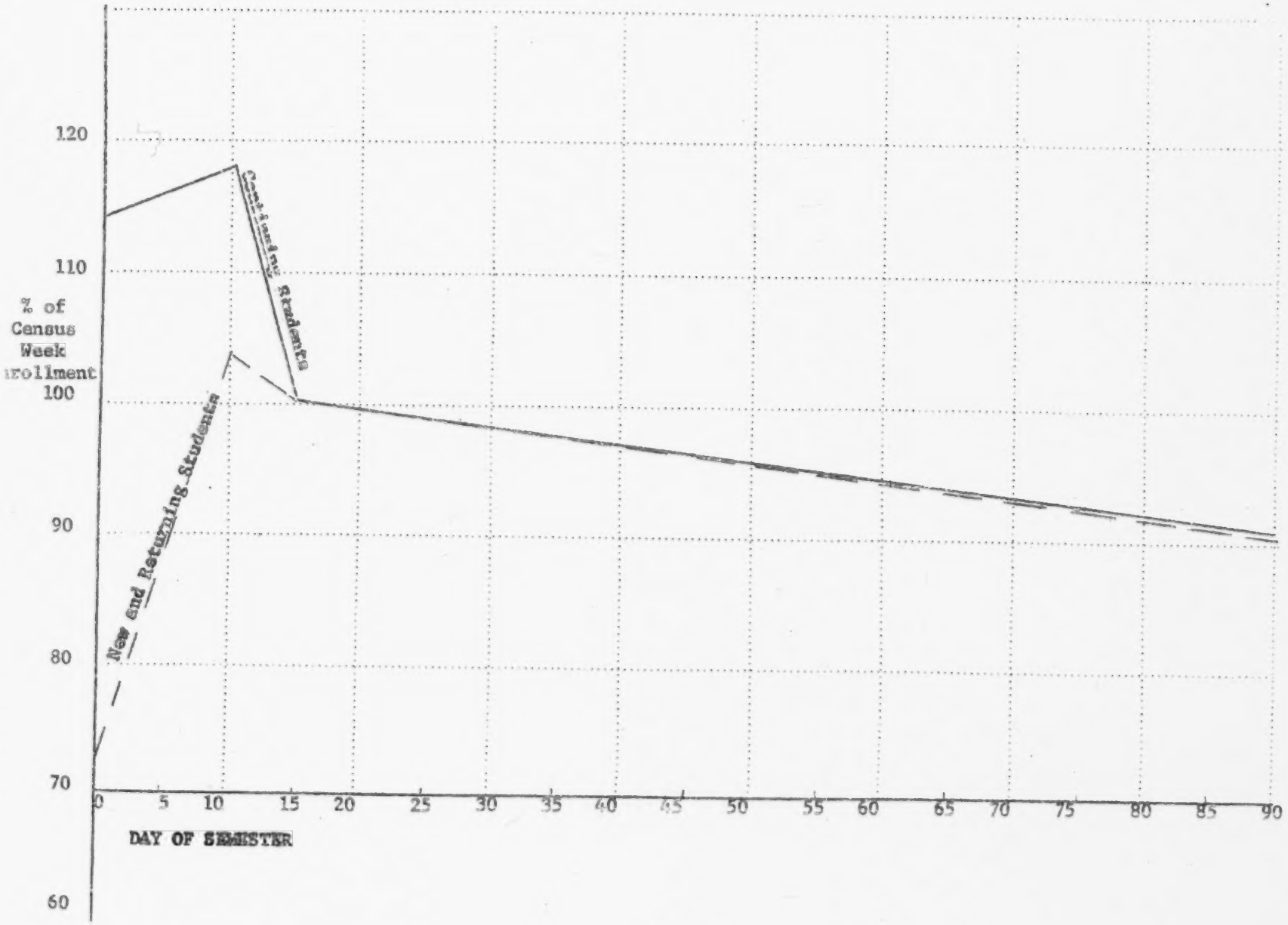
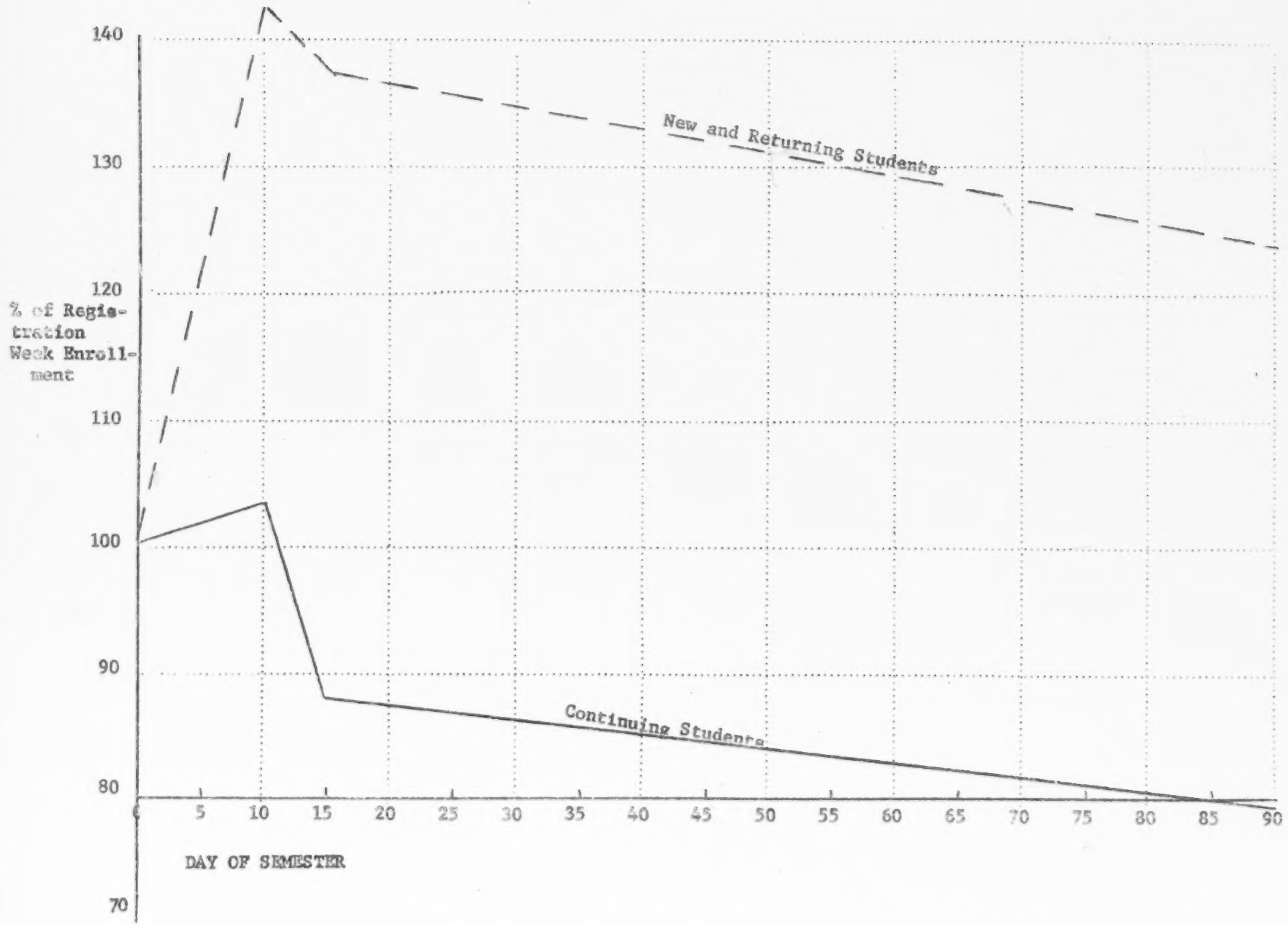


FIGURE 3 - LACC Fall, 1972 Persistence Rates for Day Students (1st day of semester as base)



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Although the effects of the late enrollees cannot be isolated, it is clear that persistence patterns for continuing and non-continuing students differ markedly between the first day of the semester and census week. For continuing students, 96% of those enrolled at the end of the second week had enrolled before the semester started, compared to only 70% of the new and returning students. However, at census week only 84% of the second week continuing enrollees were still enrolled, compared to 95% of the new and returning students. From census week to the end of the semester, both groups dropped slightly under ten percent, a figure comparable to past years.

It seems apparent that many of the students who registered early (in May) did not actually appear for classes and their names were not removed from the rolls until census week.

About 60% of total enrollments were continuing students. Departmental percentages range from 25% for Developmental Communications to 84% for Nursing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although many factors affect enrollment figures, it seems clear from the findings of this study that enrollments made in May cannot be guaranteed firm in September. It is thus recommended that one of the following procedures be followed:

(1) the plan be abandoned
(2) some means of affirming the early enrollment be employed
(3) departments study the drop rates* carefully and oversubscribe their courses appropriately

* Figures comparable to those presented in this report for each department are available for each course upon request.